The president’s executive council met on Monday, September 02, 2013, to discuss a set of agenda items impacting our university. The following is a summary of that meeting.

**Office of Career Services—Ms. Cassandra Wheeler and Ms. Laura Martinez—Upcoming Events**
The meeting began with a brief presentation by Ms. Cassandra Wheeler, executive director for the office of career services and Ms. Laura Martinez, director of employer relations. Both informed the committee of upcoming internship fairs and events. These include an Internship Fair that will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Student Center (SC) Ballroom; and a Seasonal Job Fair that will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2013, in the Student Center Rotunda from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The committee was informed of many internship opportunities for TAMIU students and the efforts that are undertaken by the personnel in this office to ensure that these internships are made possible. If interested, faculty are urged to collaborate with Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Martinez to seek their assistance in finding internships for students.

**All for TAMIU Campaign—Ms. Candy Hein**
Ms. Hein spoke briefly about this year’s campaign. She explained that last year, All for TAMIU Campaign generated approximately $45,000.00 from employees and that payroll deduction is available and the most popular form for donating.

**Financial Donor—Ms. Candy Hein**
Ms. Hein announced that she was meeting later in the morning with Mr. Frank Staggs to receive a donation in the amount of $150,000.00. She stated that the donation was made in large part because of the efforts of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Mr. Staggs’ desire to donate this money for the students of TAMIU.

**Payroll Deductions—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck asked Ms. Elizabeth Martinez about the process that the Budget and Payroll Office uses to administer payroll deductions for certain employee expenses on campus such as the Rec Center fees and other fees. The brief discussion centered upon whether or not some of these fees could be set up as automatically recurring once-a-year debits. Ms. Martinez explained that some of these cannot but that a review of the process would be undertaken.
**International Student Event—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck reminded everyone in the committee of the annual International Student Event/Dinner for all new international students to TAMIU which was held on the evening of Monday, September 02, 2013.

**Eagle Ford Shale Stakeholder Summit—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck announced that State Senator Judith Zaffirini would be at TAMIU on Wednesday, September 04, 2013, to host the University of Texas at San Antonio Eagle Ford Shale and Gas Impact Study and benefit to the Laredo economy. This event will be held in USC 101 at 10:00 a.m.

**National Science Foundation and Robert Noyce Grants—Dr. Pablo Arenaz**
Dr. Arenaz announced that TAMIU was recently awarded a Robert Noyce Foundation Grant that was authored by Dr. Hoonandara Goonatilake and Dr. Cathy Guerra in the amount of $1.2 million, mainly for student scholarships. He also explained that TAMIU had also received two grants from the National Science Foundation in chemistry. U. S. Congressman Henry Cuellar will be on campus on Friday, September 06, 2013, to make that presentation.

**White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck announced that representatives from the White House would be at TAMIU this Thursday, September 05, 2013, to meet with several groups of faculty and staff across different colleges to discuss local initiatives that are providing opportunities for Hispanics. Dr. Keck explained that this is the second time this group visits TAMIU.

**Freshman Convocation—Dr. Ray Keck**
The committee was reminded that Freshman Convocation will be held this Friday, September 06, 2013, at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts at 11:30 a.m. Line up for this event is 11:15 a.m.

**Distinguished Lecture Series A. R. Sanchez, Jr. School of Business—Dr. Steve Sears**
Dr. Sears announced that author Jonathan V. Last who is an American journalist, author, and who works at The Weekly Standard will be at TAMIU on November 13, 2013, to speak on his latest book, *What to Expect When No One’s Expecting*. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Texas Commissioner of Higher Education—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck explained that through a recent conversation that he had with Texas State Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. Raymond Paredes concerning the emergence of competency based learning, Dr. Paredes agreed to visit TAMIU to discuss the concept further and explain what is taking place at other public institutions in Texas. It is anticipated that Dr.
Paredes will have the opportunity to visit with several groups of faculty regarding this issue during his visit.

**Task Force on Formula Funding—Dr. Ray Keck**
Dr. Keck announced the appointment of several faculty and staff across all colleges who would be serving this fall on a task force that would begin the process of studying the issue of formula funding and its impact to our enrollment and budget. Mr. Juan Castillo, vice president for finance, will be chairing this task force.

**David Halpern Texas A&M University System Attorney—Dr. Minita Ramirez**
Dr. Minita Ramirez announced that Ms. Karen Royal who had been assigned to TAMU for the last several years as general counsel has taken on a new position with Texas A&M University Kingsville as their athletic compliance officer will be replaced by Mr. David Halpern from the system. She urged anyone having any pending legal matters that are being handled by Ms. Royal to ensure that these are taken care of before the end of her term at the legal system offices.

**Enrollment—Dr. Minita Ramirez**
Dr. Ramirez shared the weekly enrollment report that she provides to everyone on the council, and that report reflects a healthy enrollment for the fall semester. This was good news to everyone as enrollment for the summer remained flat.

**Freshman Retention—Dr. Conchita Hickey**
Dr. Hickey provided an update on the University College’s efforts regarding freshman retention. Currently, the retention rate is holding at approximately 75 percent.

**Associate Provost—Dr. Pablo Arenaz**
Dr. Arenaz welcomed Dr. Kevin Lindberg as the new associate provost replacing Dr. Juan Lira. This was Dr. Lindberg’s first official meeting of the executive council that he attended in his new capacity as associate provost.

**House Bill 2504—Dr. Pablo Arenaz**
Dr. Arenaz reminded all academic deans to please remind all faculty in each of the colleges of the need to comply with Texas House Bill 2504 which requires that the university publish certain course information. Faculty must have their current vita and course syllabi posted before the approaching deadline.

**Computer Refresh—Dr. Brian Gaskins**
Dr. Gaskins announced the computer refresh program that takes place every year. Information required for the refresh is due by the end of this week. Please see your department head or immediate supervisor for details.